2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
1958 MM1 Aden MM1

pounds sterling to Oxford University to found St. Antony College, and that was not the only assistance which he had given to the University, for other Colleges had also benefited from his generosity. I think probably the most outstanding things about Besse were his courage and his advanced ideas with regard to the employment of local labour. He was undaunted whatever scurvy trick fate chose to serve him, and at the same time his personal relations with his local labour were always excellent. He was not always very easy to deal with and seldom worried about what people said or thought of him—and enemies he certainly had, but what successful man has not. 000

At the time of which I speak his principal business was in skins, hides, coffee, piece-goods and electrical goods, while at the same time he had innumerable shipping Agencies and a very important petrol Agency, to say nothing of his own line of coastal steamers which traded round the coast of Arabia down to Mauritius and up into the Mediterranean. I was very glad when His Majesty, King George VI, was graciously pleased to confer upon him an honorary knighthood of the British Empire for his outstanding achievements and his generosity, which had been of great benefit to the Colony. At the same time I was frankly disappointed that he had thought fit to give over a million pounds to the University of Oxford to found a new College, because there seemed to be a sufficiency of University Colleges in the United Kingdom, and what we needed so badly in Aden was a new Civil Hospital. I gave him my views and I told him that I thought he should have put the money back into the place through which he had made it, and that to have built a hospital and to have endowed it would have been a wonderful memorial which would have stood for ever. He took my criticism, my direct attack, very well; he always did, and immediately gave £50,000 to encourage technical education and the education of women in the Colony. The fine administrative block of the Technical Institute is a memorial to his generosity, and the Besse centre in Crater where women, who have not had the advantage of a school education, can learn many things, is another of his benefactions. [873] [562]

The head office messenger came hurriedly into my office:

3:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1938) 1940 MM1 Aden MM1

Primary Education

872 The normal primary course is of four to five years, consisting of a preparatory stage, of one to two years, and three standards above it. Primary education is given, so far as is possible, through the vernaculars of the pupils and, except in cases where the appropriate vernacular education is not obtainable, pupils are not normally allowed to enter a school in which English is used throughout as the medium of teaching until they have completed a primary course in their own vernacular. In Government schools and in most others English is not taught during the primary course.

[871] The language of over 60 per cent. of the population and the language of instruction in the Government Primary Schools, for both boys and girls, is Arabic. Primary school education for boys and girls is provided also through English, Gujarati and Urdu in aided schools and through Hebrew to a limited extent in unrecognized schools.

The following table gives the nominal roll and attendance figures for the primary schools in 1938 :—

	Number of Schools.				*Average Number on Rolls.*			*Average attendance.*
	Government.	*Aided.*	*Unrecognised.*	*Total.*	*Boys.*	*Girls.*	*Total.*	
Boys ...	4	6	4	14	1,181	109*	1,290	1,140
Girls ...	2	4	1	7	20	527	547	474

* The large majority of these were in the lower classes of the Urdu schools.

The numbers of pupils in Government and aided primary schools were, boys 955, girls 468, total 1,423.

[879] Of the non-Government primary schools two aided boys' schools and one unrecognized boys' school are managed by the Roman Catholic Mission, one aided girls' school by the Danish Church Mission, one aided boys' school by the Church of Scotland Mission, and the rest by private local management.

877 At the end of the primary course a public examination is held
873 through Arabic and Urdu, mainly as a qualifying test for admission to the lower section of the Government Secondary School. In 1938 127 candidates entered for this examination and 79 passed. Failure in this examination does not necessarily debar a pupil from entering the secondary school, but priority of place is generally given to those who pass.

3:Gt. Brit. . Colonial Office G-3 (1938) 1940 MM1 Aden MM1

SECONDARY EDUCATION

873

The full secondary course at present consists of six standards, at the end of which candidates sit for the Junior Cambridge Examination. This course may be taken entirely through English in three aided and two unrecognized schools. For schools using media other than English the course is of two sections, a lower of three standards through the vernacular and a higher of three standards through English.

The lower secondary course is available for boys through Arabic, in the Government and one aided school and through Gujarati in one other aided school. Pupils attending Urdu primary schools endeavour to acquire sufficient Arabic to enable them to join an Arabic lower secondary course. A lower secondary course is provided in the Jewish boys' school but the medium of instruction is Arabic though written in Hebrew characters. The teaching of English is begun, in Government schools, in the first year of the secondary course.

Secondary education for girls is obtainable only through English, in the two Franciscan Convent Schools. Very few Arab girls take this course.

The following table gives the figures for secondary schools in 1938 :—

	Number of Schools.				*Average Number on Rolls.*	*Average attendance.*
	Government.	*Aided.*	*Unrecognized.*	*Total.*		
Boys ...	1	3	3	7	541	493
Girls ...	—	2	—	2	115	101

The large majority of these pupils are in the lower secondary classes.

Of the non-Government schools shown in the above table two aided girls' schools, one aided boys' school and one unrecognized boys' school are maintained by the Roman Catholic Missions, one aided boys' school is maintained by the Church of Scotland Mission and the rest are under private local management.

Four candidates, from the Government secondary boys' school, passed the Junior Cambridge Examination in December, 1938.

"SPECIAL" SCHOOLS

874

The only vocational or technical training regularly provided at present is in commercial subjects. Until June, 1928, there were attached to the Government Secondary School evening commercial

3:Gt. Brit. . Colonial Office G-3 (1938) 1940 MM1 Aden MM1

874 classes conducted by a member of the school staff and attended partly by pupils of the school and partly by students from outside. This class was discontinued when the teacher in charge proceeded on leave and it is not proposed to reconstitute it in the same form. The number of pupils in this class in 1938 up to the time of its dissolution was 16.

There is also an unrecognized institution, the Aden Commercial Institute, which provides both general and commercial education. The commercial subjects studied are mainly bookkeeping, typing and shorthand. The commercial classes are held in the evening and there is no age restriction to admission. Candidates from this institution are presented for the various certificate examinations of the London Chamber of Commerce. The number in these classes in 1938 was 142.

873 797 Evening classes for general education are also held regularly in connection with a Young Men's Club managed by the Church of England Mission. These classes are more in the form of guidance towards self-study than of direct instruction and are attended by an average of about 25 young men, most of whom are Arabs.

Finance

871 658 Government expenditure on education in the calendar year 1938 amounted to Rs. 80,140 exclusive of cost of repairs to buildings. Of this sum, Rs. 20,678 were paid out in grants-in-aid.

Contributions towards expenditure on education are made by the Aden Settlement and by the Aden Port Trust. For the financial year 1938–39 these contributions amount to Rs. 35,000 and Rs. 15,000 respectively.

School fees are charged in Government boys' schools at rates rising from 1 anna per month in Standard I in the Primary School to Rs. 2/8/– in Standard VI of the Secondary School. A number of free places are provided for poor and meritorious students. No fees are charged in the Government girls' schools.

General

000 Proposals for the improvement of education in Aden were submitted to the Secretary of State in 1938, and were generally approved. It is hoped to begin the introduction of these improvements early in 1939.

Welfare Institutions

657 735 There are as yet no welfare institutions in Aden Colony. The Silver Jubilee (Destitute) Fund is administered by the Chairman of the Aden Settlement and the interest from the investments is used to provide for relief, principally at Sheikh Othman, but it is hoped to institute a Poor Relief Fund and a Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic as the result of collections made at the Centenary Celebrations in 1939.

4:Gt. Brit. . Colonial Office G-3 (1937) 1939 MM1 Aden MM1

Arabic primary schools. This post, now abolished, was held by a seconded Arab officer of the Palestine Education Department. 871

To advise Government on educational matters there is an Advisory Committee, consisting of leading citizens under the chairmanship of the Civil Secretary.

In respect of management and degree of Government control, schools are classified as Government recognized aided, recognized unaided, and unrecognized unaided. In respect of academic standard and nature of instruction they are classified as secondary, primary, " indigenous " and " special ". During the period under review there were no recognized unaided schools, and this category, therefore, will be omitted in the tables which follow.

Primary Education.

The normal primary course is of four to five years, consisting of a preparatory stage, of one to two years, and three standards above it. 872

Primary education is given so far as is possible through the vernaculars of the pupils and, except in cases where no vernacular education is obtainable, pupils are not allowed to enter a school in which English is used throughout as the medium until they have completed a primary course through their own vernacular. In Government schools and in most others, English is not taught during the primary course.

The language of over 60 per cent. of the population and the language of instruction in the Government primary schools, both boys' and girls', is Arabic. Primary school education for boys and girls is provided also through English, Gujarati and Urdu in aided schools and through Hebrew, to a limited extent, in unrecognized schools.

The following table shows the number of primary schools in 1937:—

	Boys.	*Girls.*
Government	1	2
Aided	5	4
Unrecognized	3	1
Average number on rolls	1,221	120*
	15	512

* The large majority of these were in the lower classes of the Urdu schools.

The numbers of pupils in Government and aided primary schools were: boys 889, girls 481.

Of the aided schools, two girls' schools are maintained by the Roman Catholic Mission and one by the Danish Church Mission; one boys' school by the Church of Scotland Mission and the rest by private local management.

The unaided schools are all under private local management.

At the end of the primary course a public examination is held, mainly as a qualifying test for admission to the lower section 872 873

4:Gt. Brit. . Colonial Office G-3 (1937) 1939 MM1 Allen MM1

872 of the Government Secondary School. In 1937 132 candidates
873 entered for this examination and 102 passed. Failure in this examination does not necessarily debar a pupil from entering the secondary school, but priority of place is generally given to those who pass. No provision is made for Gujarati, Hebrew or English in this examination.

872 "INDIGENOUS" SCHOOLS, QURAN SCHOOLS AND TALMUD TORAS.

"Indigenous" schools are schools of a primitive nature which attempt to serve the immediate requirements of certain classes of a conservative population. They combine with religious teaching some measure of general primary education.

The more advanced of these are assisted by Government, mainly through *per capita* grants and through free loans of text-books and school equipment.

Quran schools and Talmud Toras are, in most cases, still more primitive and provide little or no general education.

The figures for these schools in 1937 are as below:—

Indigenous Schools, Quran Schools and Talmud Toras.	*Number of Schools.*	*Number on Rolls.*	
		Boys.	*Girls.*
Aided	3	87	27
Unrecognized	33	987	154

It has been the practice for a number of children to pass through these schools before applying for entrance to proper primary schools.

SECONDARY EDUCATION.

873 The full secondary course is at present of six standards, at the end of which candidates sit for the Junior Cambridge Examination. This course may be taken completely through English in three aided and two unrecognized schools. For schools using media other than English, the course is of two sections, a lower of three standards through the vernacular and a higher of three standards through English.

The lower secondary course is available for boys through Arabic in the Government and one aided school, and through Gujarati in one other aided school. Pupils attending Urdu primary schools endeavour to acquire during their primary course sufficient Arabic to enable them to join an Arabic lower secondary course, because funds, public or private, do not permit of the provision of a lower secondary course through Urdu. A lower secondary course is provided in the Jewish boys' school, but the medium of instruction is Arabic though written in Hebrew characters. The teaching of English is begun, in Government schools, in the first year of the secondary course.

Secondary education for girls is obtainable only through English, in the two Franciscan convent schools.

4:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1937) 1939 MM1 Aden MM1

The number of secondary schools in 1937 was as follows:— 873

	Government.	Aided.	Unrecognized.	Number on Rolls. Boys.	Girls.
Boys —					
Lower and Higher Secondary ...	1	2	2	419	—
Lower Secondary ...	—	1	1	94	—
Girls —					
Lower and Higher Secondary ...	—	2	—	3	67

Of the above schools, three aided and one unrecognized are maintained by the Roman Catholic Mission, one aided is maintained by the Church of Scotland Mission, and the rest are under private local management.

The numbers of pupils in the lower and higher secondary sections in Government and aided schools were:—

Boys —	
Higher Secondary	48
Lower Secondary	230
Girls —	
Higher Secondary	24
Lower Secondary	43

In 1937 there was only one entry for the Junior Cambridge Examination, a pupil of the Franciscan Convent School, Tawahi, who passed.

Special Schools.

The only vocational or technical training regularly provided 874
is in commercial subjects. Attached to the Government Secondary School are evening classes conducted by a member of the school staff and attended partly by present pupils of the school and partly by students from outside. There is also an unrecognized institution, the Aden Commercial Institute, which provides both general and commercial education. The commercial subjects studied are mainly book-keeping, typing and shorthand. Candidates from both these institutions are presented for the various examinations of the London Chamber of Commerce. Numbers of students in 1937 were:—

Government Evening Commercial Class ...	19
Aden Commercial Institute	100

Finance.

Government expenditure on education in the calendar year 658
1937 amounted to Rs.63,000 exclusive of cost of repairs to 871
buildings. Of this sum Rs.20,737 were paid out in grants-in-aid —Rs.767 to indigenous schools, Rs.7,061 to primary schools, and Rs.12,909 to secondary schools.

School fees are charged in Government boys' schools at rates on a scale rising from 1 anna per month in Standard I in the Primary School to Rs.2/8/- in Standard VI of the Secondary

6:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1948) 1950 MM1 Aden MM1

general public began to take an interest also in this journal and arrangements were made for its public sale.

The deliberate action in sending useful men away on scholarship was to some extent offset by work done at the monthly meetings of teachers; but the standard remained low and will do so until men return to the schools from training locally and in the United Kingdom.

The first annual vacation course took place in August. All Colony teachers attended with many from grant-aided schools and some 20 men from the Western Aden Protectorate. The course concentrated on handwork of many kinds, and the fortnight was one of enthusiasm, hard work and pleasurable contacts.

Adult Education. The evening class for some 40 Arab women continued to meet in the Government Girls' School once a week, and girls of over school age met twice a week. Dressmaking and needlework were rather more popular with the adults, whilst the girls preferred Arabic. All these classes were conducted as before by the British Principal.

The Aden Commercial Institute provided evening instruction as usual in commercial subjects and in English, but the British Institute ceased teaching.

Technical Education. The Technical Instructor arrived early in the year and soon drew up syllabuses for both primary and secondary schools which were put into operation in the third term. He also conducted evening classes for teachers and took a leading part in the Vacation Course. In addition, he drew up preliminary plans for the Technical College destined to open in 1951.

Parents Committee. Very heavily attended meetings of parents were held at four centres early in the year to elect 14 members of a committee which met every six weeks to discuss matters concerning the well-being of the primary schools. The committee proved a most useful contact between the officers of the department and the public.

Five-Year Plan. This was presented to Government in March and received approval from the Secretary of State towards the end of the year. It provides for the building of three girls' schools which will embrace all stages from kindergarten to teacher-training, two more schools for boys, the Technical College and the Aden College. The latter takes the place of the Lord Lloyd College, so long talked of. The general effect is to double the places in boys' primary schools, to treble places in boys' post-primary schools, and to treble places for girls. Over the five years some 50 additional teachers will be required, but the situation at the end of the year was serious in that but one new man entered training instead of the ten needed at that stage.

HEALTH

During 1948 there was a further expansion in the activities of the Medical Department, particularly in the work of the Civil Hospital.

For the first time in the history of the department, a fully equipped and staffed X-ray department functioned for the whole year. Over 5,000

7: Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1949-50) 1951 MM1 Aden MM1

875 204 The monthly teachers' journal completed its third year and was well run by a small committee of teachers. Its popularity is such that it was increased in size to eight pages, and a considerable number were sold to the public. It contains departmental and professional news, articles and world news.

875 No complaint in general could be made about the enthusiasm of teachers; there was a much better corporate feeling and a growing sense of professional prestige, but their cultural background remains poor.

Weekly meetings of all women teachers were held during the cooler months. Talks on general education were given by the Principal of the Government Secondary School, and lectures in method and games by the Egyptian teachers.

Building

653 871 Considerable progress has been made with the school buildings foreshadowed in the five-year Development Plan. Work has already begun on the Aden College and the Technical College has been completed. It is hoped that the former will be opened early in 1952 and the latter accepted students early in 1951. Two further girls' schools and a boys' school have been built in Crater and the boys' school at Maalla has been doubled in size. Extensions have been made to three other schools. As a result of these developments there are now 4,000 places available in Government schools compared with 2,000 in 1947.

Technical Education

874 This continued satisfactorily on the lines drawn up by the Principal-Designate of the Technical College, and two Arabs who had been on two-year technical scholarships in England returned in 1950 and assisted in the implementation of the new syllabuses of handwork and art.

Adult Education

873 Evening classes for women and girls were unfortunately not given during 1949-50 owing to shortage of Egyptian staff. Normally dress-making, knitting, embroidery and Arabic are taught. Classes should be resumed shortly.

Weekly talks were given at the British Institute. A privately-run commercial school provided evening instruction in commercial subjects and in English, but the British Institute ceased to hold classes.

Parents' Committee

871 Meetings of this committee were held every six weeks and many points of great value and interest were discussed. It continued to be a most useful contact between the officers of the Department and the public.

HEALTH

164 A steady improvement in the general state of the public health was revealed by the continued, in some cases marked, decline in the various health indices such as the death rate, infant mortality rate and the T.B. death rate.

8:Gt. Brit., Colonial Office G-3 (1951-52)1954 MM1 Aden MM1

for entry into one of the Colleges at the end of the intermediate course. 871
In Government schools primary education is free ; for intermediate education a fee of *Sh.*45 a year is charged, and for Aden College and the Technical College the annual fee is *Sh.*90. Aided and independent schools all charge fees for each of the three sections, in most cases very much higher than those in Government schools.

Provision for Education

Schools directly maintained by Government provide primary and intermediate education through the medium of Arabic (the mother-tongue of the large majority), and secondary education through the medium of English. The teaching of English is now started in the third year of the four-year primary course. Aided and independent schools provide primary and intermediate schooling through the medium of English, Urdu, Hebrew and Gujrati. Secondary schooling is through the medium of English. There is also a number of unrecognised indigenous and Koranic schools for both boys and girls.

Technical classes, which were run for a few months in a neighbouring 874
primary school, were transferred to the completed Technical College buildings in November, 1951. The first intake consisted of 60 boys. The College offers four courses, each of four years' duration, in carpentry and joinery ; cabinet-making ; engineer fitting ; and motor mechanics. The administrative block and the eight workshops cost some £100,000 to build and equip. The interest and support of commercial firms was freely given and an advisory committee was constituted.

The former Government Secondary School closed at the end of 1952 873
when its premises and the students in its lower section were given over to the Government Intermediate School. The students of the upper section was transferred to the nearly complete Aden College which, with its fifteen staff houses and appropriate servants' quarters, cost some £200,000 to build and equip. The college has two laboratories with theatres, a large assembly hall equipped with stage and film projection box, boarding accommodation for 30 boys, a mosque, a library and an exhibition hall.

Both Government Colleges receive pupils from Government, aided, or independent schools. Aden College takes them as far as the Cambridge School Certificate and the General Certificate of Education, whilst the Technical College will take them as far as examinations of the City and Guilds of London Institute. In the Cambridge School Certificate Examination of December, 1951, 29 boys from Aden College sat of whom seven were successful. Attached to Aden College there is a one-year teacher-training section for men teachers, and attached to the Girls' Intermediate School there is a two-year training section for women teachers.

The ages of entry and leaving for primary schools are 6/8 to 10/12 871
years ; for intermediate schools 11/12 to 14/15 years ; and for secondary schools and the two colleges 14/15 to 18/19 years.

3:Royal Institute of International Affairs U-4 (no date)1954 M1 Middle East
Aden MM1

439 Restrictions imposed by Eritrea and Somalia on the importation of goods from Aden were causing some dissatisfaction.

491 The Colony is served by good roads which extend to Shaikh
494 Othman and Lahej. Increasing use is being made of motor
505 vehicles on some 700 miles of tracks in the Western Aden Pro-
506 tectorate, but communications with the Hadramaut coast are
205 almost entirely by sea or air. Since the Colony ceased to be
436 administered by the Government of India in 1937, it has had its own postal administration and issued its own stamps. When India became independent in 1947, the Aden Government began to consider abandoning the rupee as the legal currency, but the change to the East African shilling (divided into 100 cents) was not effected until October 1951, when Aden came under the jurisdiction of the East African currency board.

651 The main sources of revenue are income tax, excess profits
652 and other direct taxes, and excise duties. Revenue for 1951–2 was £1,577,646 and expenditure £1,597,400 plus a contribution of £1 million to the development fund. The development plan, as revised in 1949, envisaged the expenditure in three years of £2,023,000, of which 53 per cent was to be provided by the Colony's own surplus balances and 15 per cent by the British Government under the Colonial Development and Welfare vote, while it was hoped to raise the remainder (£660,000) as loans in London. Further proposals for development until 1956–7 at an additional cost of nearly £4 million were being considered by the Colonial Office at the end of 1952. In 1953 development plan expenditure approved[1] for the Colony and Protectorates reached a total of £6,270,000, of which £850,000 came from Colonial Development and Welfare funds and
658 £5,420,000 from local loans and resources.[2] Meanwhile, under
●[873 the educational part of the 1949 programme (16 per cent of the
874] total) an Aden College of upper secondary status and a technical college have been built, and a number of primary and secondary schools built or enlarged. In 1952 3,152 boys and 1,562 girls were receiving primary, and 1,552 boys and 256 girls secondary education in government or private schools. Egyptian women teachers were being employed in post-primary schools owing to the shortage of qualified Aden women. Overseas scholarships to the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan and Great

[1] In principle, but subject to further revision.

[2] In December of that year the Aden Government floated a public loan for the first time for the financing of development works, including a new power station, a new telephone exchange, and major water improvements. A total of £1,330,000 was issued in 4½ per cent stock of which £480,000 was taken up for Colonial Government funds, £100,000 reserved for public subscription in Aden, and £750,000 was placed on the London market.